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INR/IL

Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Moody:

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of September 21, in which you and nine other members of the House of Representatives expressed concern about reports of abductions by armed Nicaraguan opposition forces.

Regarding the specific case you cite, Eden Poptora's Sandinista Revolutionary Front and the allied Miskito Indian group MISURASATA have acknowledged the capture of Ray Hocker and Patricia Delgado, and have stated they will hold them in an effort to secure a prisoner exchange with the Nicaraguan Government. The U.S. Government did not participate in, support, or approve these events, and will of course continue to respect Executive Order 12333 concerning intelligence operations. I wish to stress that the U.S. does not condone kidnapping or intentional acts of violence by any group against innocent civilians. We have made this point clear, in appropriate ways, to all parties to the conflict in Central America, and we have no doubt that they know where we stand.

As to the November elections in Nicaragua, I agree that the U.S. should not condone activities that would impede the democratic process. I must, however, disagree with your assertion that the anti-Sandinista forces are carrying out a "campaign of terror" comparable to that of the Salvadoran guerrillas. There is a crucial difference between the guerrillas in Nicaragua and those in El Salvador in that the Nicaraguan forces have made clear that their goal is to participate in a democratic electoral process, while the Salvadoran guerrillas reject such participation and have systematically used terror to disrupt the electoral process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,

W. Tappley Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable
Jim Moody,
House of Representatives.

COMMITTEE
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September 21, 1984

8626668

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is our understanding that there are reports from Nicaragua that rebel forces have abducted two Nicaraguan political leaders. This news is the latest indication of the increasing trend of political terrorism by forces within Nicaragua directly associated with the United States government. The latest abductions, if confirmed, will bring to 82 the number of Nicaraguans who have been abducted since the beginning of July. Of these 82 people, four have already been found murdered and the Nicaraguan government fears that the rest have either been killed or have been taken to rebel camps in Costa Rica or Honduras.

The two most recent kidnap victims are Ray Hooker and Patricia Delgado. Ray Hooker was educated in the United States at Ohio University. He has been chosen as a Sandinista candidate for the new National Assembly. Patricia Delgado is a member of the regional Sandinista governing committee. Both of these candidates have been actively participating in the election process.

The Sandinista government has scheduled elections for November 4, 1984. The policy of the Reagan Administration and the Congress has been to encourage the Sandinista government to move in a Democratic direction. At the same time, though, the contras have been carrying on a systematic campaign of terror in much the same way that the Salvadoran guerrillas attempted to prevent the people of El Salvador from participating in a free and open electoral process.

We strongly oppose any association between U.S. efforts in Nicaragua and political terrorism. Such an association does grave damage to the U.S. position in Latin America and the world as the advocate of democratic traditions and government. In addition, these terrorist kidnappings are in direct conflict with the Reagan Administration's Executive Order 12333.

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According to Section 2. Interdepartmental Operations of the U.S. Government Overseas, Part 2, Conduct of Intelligence Activities:

"2.11 PROHIBITION on ASSASSINATION. No person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination.

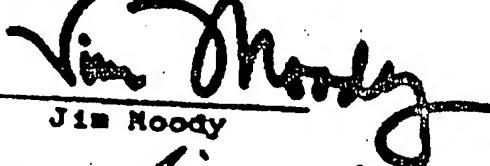
2.12 INDIRECT PARTICIPATION. No agency of the Central Intelligence Community shall participate in or request any person to undertake activities forbidden by this Order."

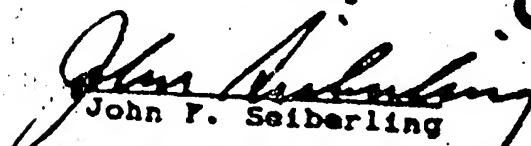
Mr. Secretary, we urge you to use whatever avenues of communication exist between the U.S. government and the contras to press for the immediate release of Ray Hooker and Patricia Delgado, to obtain a full accounting of the other 76 missing Nicaraguans, and to bring about a cessation of all political assassinations and kidnappings.

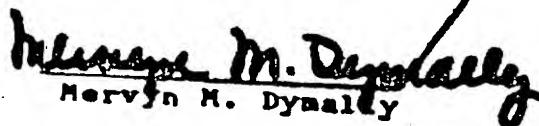
The goal of U.S. policy should be to normalize U.S.-Nicaraguan relations, not to associate with actions that inevitably lead the Sandinistas to permanently establish a totalitarian regime. While it remains to be seen whether the November elections will be free and open, we must not condone any activity that serves as an impediment to the democratic process.

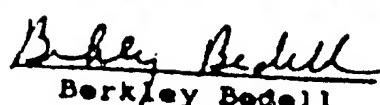
We urge your immediate attention to this important matter.

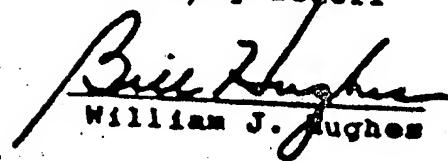
Sincerely,


Jim Moody

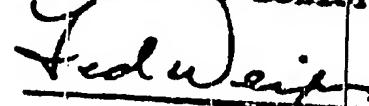

John P. Seiberling

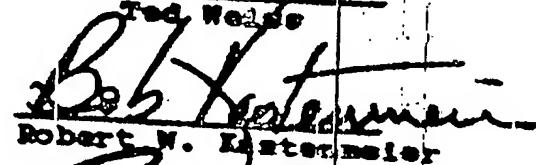

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